

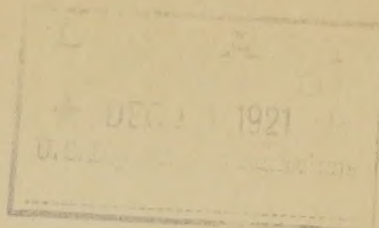
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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D. C.



December 8, 1921.

To Agricultural Editors:

I have had a number of inquiries from agricultural editors for a statement of facts on the status of government periodicals. The U.S.D.A. periodicals which will be discontinued, so far as we have information at the present time, are the following:

Weekly News Letter  
Clip Sheet  
Special Information Service  
Public Roads  
Crop Reporter  
Market Reporter  
Monthly Weather Review  
Experiment Station Record  
Journal of Agricultural Research  
National Weather and Crop Bulletin

It is possible that the Joint Committee may decide that some of these should not be classed as periodicals under the definition given by the Joint Committee some time ago. We are asking for a ruling on this point.

The resolution as it passed the Senate, with the amendment proposed by the House committee, is now before Congress and is given on attached sheet. Early action seems improbable, although Congress may decide to give this matter preferred place. In the meantime it is impossible for us to continue the publications enumerated above, unless the committee decides they are not periodicals under the ruling given on attached.

Sincerely,

*C. W. Rogers*  
Assistant Secretary.

(Enclosure)





## GOVERNMENT PERIODICALS SUSPENDED

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By a provision of Section 3 the Sundry Civil Act approved March 4, 1921, Government departments were required to secure specific authority from Congress for the publication of each of their periodicals after December 1, 1921.

"Sec. 3. Any journal, magazine, periodical, or similar publication which is now being issued by a department or establishment of the Government, may, in the discretion of the head thereof, be continued, within the limitation of available appropriations or other Government funds, until December 1, 1921, when if it shall not have been specifically authorized by Congress before that date, such journal, magazine, periodical, or similar publication shall be discontinued."

The Joint Committee on Printing introduced the following resolution in the Senate and it was passed by that body on November 4.

"Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 3 of the Sundry Civil Appropriation Act for 1922, approved March 4, 1921, be, and is hereby, amended to read as follows:

'That hereafter no journal, magazine, periodical, or similar Government publication shall be published, issued, or discontinued by any branch or office of the Government service unless the same shall have been authorized under such rules and regulations as shall be prescribed by the Joint Committee on Printing, and such publications shall not contain any commercial advertisements.'"

The measure then went to the House and was reported out by the House Committee in an amended form as follows:

"Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 3 of the Sundry Civil Appropriation Act for 1922, approved March 4, 1921, be, and is hereby, amended to read as follows:

'Any journal, magazine, periodical, or similar publication which is now being issued by a department or establishment of the Government may, in the discretion of the head thereof, be continued, within the limitation of available appropriations or other Government funds, until March 1, 1922, when, if it shall not have been specifically authorized by Congress before that date, such journal, magazine, periodical, or similar publication shall be discontinued.'"





The House adjourned without taking action on the measure. The Department then took the matter up with the clerk of the Joint Committee on Printing and those members of the committee remaining in Washington during the interim and asked for a classification of our publications under the following rule of the committee:

"4. The term 'periodical' as used in these regulations shall be construed to mean all journals, magazines, periodicals, and other similar publications issued wholly or in part at Government expense, and shall not apply to strictly administrative reports, statistical publications, rules, regulations, instructions, opinions, decisions, official notices and circulars, office records, and such matter as may be required for the exclusive official use of the issuing office or service in the transaction of its routine business."

In the absence of any instructions from the Joint Committee on Printing to the Public Printer as to the specific publications to be discontinued, the Public Printer decided that he would publish all periodicals, copy for which was received in the Printing Office before December 1. No further copy for periodicals will be forwarded to the Printing Office until the Joint Committee on Printing acts in the matter but manuscripts will be prepared and made ready to submit at the usual time so our statistical files will be kept complete. A notice to all who receive the publication will be sent out on the day which would have been the regular mailing date of the issue suspended. This notice will tell why publication has been suspended.



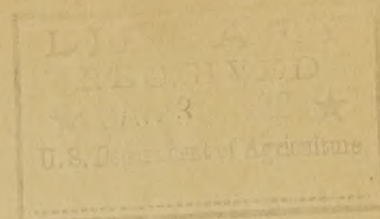
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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D. C.



December 31, 1921.

To Agricultural Editors:

The following gives the latest information concerning publications of the Department of Agriculture.

Congress as a body has taken no further action, but the Joint Committee on Printing has amended their definition of periodicals so that it does not include statistical or administrative publications. Under this amended form we are told that we can publish market, crop and weather reports and send out administrative matters. In personal conference with Senators Moses and Capper, members of the Joint Committee, I was also informed that it was the intention of the Joint Committee's amendment to include the Journal of Agricultural Research and the Experiment Station Record. They also approved the sending of regular information to editors of papers, to be relayed by them to the general public.

The following Department publications will not be resumed unless they are specifically authorized by Congress:

The Weekly News Letter  
Public Roads  
Special Information Service

Beginning with the first week in January The Market Reporter, the Crop Reporter, and the National Crop and Weather Bulletin will be combined into one publication to be known as "Weather, Crops and Markets." The new publication will carry statistics and







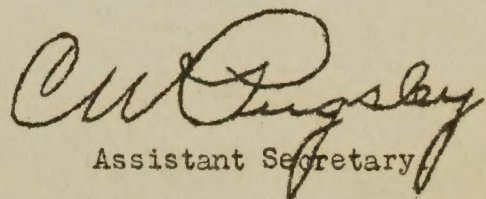
information heretofore appearing in the three which are being abandoned. There will be one more issue of each of the three former publications so that the 1921 statistics may be completed for file. These three issues are now in the press.

The Experiment Station Record, Journal of Agricultural Research, and the Clip Sheet will be continued as formerly, so far as we know at the present time.

A Department house organ will be published from the Secretary's Office. It will be known as THE OFFICIAL RECORD. It will go to employees of the Department of Agriculture, and to such other people as are closely co-operating with the Department, if they make special request for it. Its object will be twofold: First, to carry official information from the Secretary's Office to the workers of the Department, and second, as a builder of Department morale, by carrying items of interest and progress reports. I believe that it will be very helpful.

I will be glad to have any comments on the above changes, and particularly any constructive suggestions looking toward the improvement of our publication work. We have in hand some plans for changing bulletins which I think will be effective, but are not ready to announce them yet.

Sincerely,

  
Assistant Secretary



Information regarding appearing in the press which are being  
submitted. There will be one more issue of the press  
before publication as that the 1931 statistics are completed  
and the statistics are now in the press.

The Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Agricultural  
Research, and the Civil Service will be continued as formerly, so far  
as we know at the present time.

A Department of the State will be published from the Bureau  
of the State. It will be known as the OFFICIAL RECORD. It will  
be the business of the Department of Agriculture, and to each other  
it will be closely co-operating with the Department of the State.  
The special report for the year will be published. It will  
be carry official information from the Secretary's Office to the  
members of the Department, and second, as a bulwark of Department  
policy, by carrying items of interest and progress reports.

Believe that it will be very helpful.  
I will be glad to have any comments on the above changes,  
and particularly any constructive suggestions looking toward the  
improvement of the publication. We have in hand some plans  
for changing the publication which I think will be effective, but are  
not ready to announce them yet.

Very truly,  
W. B. Smith  
Assistant Secretary